

**From:** Pascal Goguey  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:56am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am not sure my comments will be valid since I am posting from abroad. However, it may be a good thing to stress that people from the whole world, and not only US are frustrated by Microsoft practices, mainly for the following reasons:

1. Impossibility to buy an Intel-based machine which is not preloaded with any of the versions of Microsoft Windows;
2. Impossibility to get a refund from Microsoft in most of the countries when sending back the OS;
3. Extreme difficulty for an OEM to sell machines equipped with alternative operating systems;

As for the recent settlement, it leaves a lot of room for reinforcement of Microsoft's monopolistic position. In particular, the fact that Microsoft must provide software for free to school is like a powertool in Microsoft's hands: first, it costs them a subdollar fee to duplicate the software, and they could even make it downloadable, and second, it will be a free advertisement campaign as all the students in these schools will become used to their products, and therefore more likely to purchase what they are used to.

The settlement also lacks a true anti-monopolistic policy.

I am not optimistic enough to think my contribution would change anything, but I hope a significant number non-US residents will join in the same effort.

Best regards,

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